

# THE iNFORMER

## DDK FELLOWS NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

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The Fellows Advisory Board (FAB) in collaboration with the NIDDK Fellowship Office has started a monthly newsletter to announce events and news. If you would like to help write articles for the newsletter or have any questions or comments regarding the newsletter or FAB, please contact:

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## Novartis Institute for BioMedical Research (NIBR) Event

by Erica Rosemond

Ahhhhhhhhh, the desire to get a position in big Pharma! Quite a few people attended this event – Lori Conlan estimated that 100-200 people were present. I missed the seminar about the prospects of doing a postdoc at NIBR as you have to be less than 2 years into your postdoc to apply, which is great for recent grads, but not so much for someone like me. However, my grad student friend said it was a great opportunity if you can get it! “Should have, could have, would have!”

Jen Megules was the person who presented the seminar and was from human resources. The start of the seminar was designed to market

Novartis. They let us know that Novartis is huge (worldwide) and is one of the best places to work as dictated by the Science magazine survey. Novartis works on several diseases including diabetes, schizophrenia, cancer, and the list goes on but I couldn't write it all down! Their largest research-based (pre-clinical) facility is in Cambridge, Massachusetts and their pharmaceutical division (stuff that actually made it through pre-clinical!) is in New Jersey. They have platform technology groups that aid the development and pathway groups (similar to core facilities I am guessing). I was happy to hear that their pre-clinical facility strives to

gain a mechanistic understanding of disease and that they are interested in molecular pathways within the cell and between cells so that they can make educated guesses as to side-effects and off-target effects of drugs in development. I suppose that the company's large size affords them this luxury. They have three tracks in research: 1) Associate Scientist (BS/MS), 2) Entry-level Research Investigator (PhD), and 3) Senior Research Investigator (management track – with the ability to run a group). Once hired, one can get advancement based on personal performance. AND for those J1 postdocs – yes,

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## Project Management Workshop

by Anna Burkart

FelCom and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) hosted a workshop on Project Management on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The workshop, which was attended by 70-80 people, included three speakers: Rami Scharf D.Sc., MBA, PMP, Associate Director, Corporate Project

Management, MedImmune; Elizabeth Barrows, Project Manager at WRAIR; and Kumar Mukesh Ph.D., RAC, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, Amarex Clinical Research, LLC. The intent of this workshop was to help people learn what exactly project management is,

understand how project management is used in industry and finally how people can apply it to their lives. The speakers did a great job identifying what project management is: the application of skills, knowledge, tools and techniques to meet the needs and expectations

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## NIBR Event by Erica Rosemond, continued from page 1

they will take you if you have what they want.

If you hadn't gone to an event like this before, I think it was useful to hear about big Pharma and the question period that followed was quite insightful. When Novartis has an open position, their hiring managers are looking for 1) Expertise and 2) Key Behaviors. Everyone should have the expertise if you are applying for the positions so pay attention to the key behaviors!! You need to be an innovative thinker, results driven, and collaborative. The real question is how do you promote these things on your resume?? We all have these skills but I am sure if you go to a resume critique session someone can help you with this. It is all about marketing yourself effectively. And you will definitely need to do this

because for one position there are 200-300 applicants from which 10-20 will get telephone interviews and only 2-3 will get on-site interviews. Don't worry – you are awesome so there is no problem, right?

Another question asked was whether the cover letter had much weight. The answer was that it would never hurt to have a good cover letter but if your resume is doing what it is supposed to do you likely won't need the cover letter. However, it is also a personal preference of the hiring manager. Of course, avoid spelling errors and highlight your SKILLS section. And if you are lucky enough to get an on-site interview, the advice given for your job talk was to really express your interest and excitement in your work and re-visit past research and KNOW it!

This means that you should be able to carry on a conversation about your past papers and techniques – anything on your resume or in your papers is fair game for the interviewers to ask you about.

The networking part of the event may have been insightful, but I didn't stick around in the huge lines to talk to the 4 people who were there. Honestly, I don't even think they were taking resumes. They were answering questions about what kind of research Novartis was doing and whether your research background would fit - anything you could get from the website and a job description.

In summary – a good event and worth going to – if nothing else for the cookies and treats afterwards!

## Project Management by Anna Burkart, continued from page 1

of stakeholders for a project - the stakeholders being any person or group with a vested interest in the outcome of a project. The core issue in project management is the triple constraint of Time, Cost, and Scope which ultimately impacts Quality. The project manager is responsible for overseeing these constraints.

In addition to explaining the intricacies of a job in project

management, the speakers suggested that those interested in project management as a career should sign up for a course at any of their local colleges in order to put this experience on their CV. This would be one way to stand out from the rest when applying for a job in project management. The speakers emphasized that networking is also a good way to learn of career opportunities in the project

management area. And for those interested in learning more about project management, the speakers provided some good online resources: The Project Management Institute (PMI) at [www.pmi.org](http://www.pmi.org), the PMI Pharma Specific Interest Group at [www.pharmasig.org](http://www.pharmasig.org), and the Pharma Local Interest Group (Pharma LIG) at [www.pharmalig.org](http://www.pharmalig.org).

### OITE Seminar: Using Biospace in an Industry Job Hunt – Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** Are you entering the job market soon? Here is a comprehensive resource that can help you.

Come learn from Biospace.com experts how to use their website for your job search needs. Biospace provides many resources for your job search including news and career information from the bioscience industry in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. The target audience for this seminar is postdocs/grad students considering industry positions.

This seminar will discuss how to: post your resume for potential employers, navigate company job postings, and access other valuable career development information (i.e. community discussion forums, -including tips for applying, interviewing, and negotiating for company jobs). Information on upcoming Biospace career fairs scheduled locally and around the world will also be shared.

**Speakers:** Kevin Glacken and Sean Catullo, Biospace.com

**Date/Time/Location:** March 9 (Monday ), 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Building 1, Wilson Hall (third floor)

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iO\\_2b6kKq448tBR6axraf7Nw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=iO_2b6kKq448tBR6axraf7Nw_3d_3d)

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### March/Early April Social Events:

March 8: Pompeii Exhibition at National Gallery of Art

March 14: Capitol tour

March 18: FelCom Happy Hour at the Barking Dog

March 21: Library of Congress

April 1: NIDDK Wii Party at BlackFinn

April 4: Cherry Blossom Festival: Freer Art Gallery tour and Japanese Street Festival

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### Winner of the Newsletter Naming and Logo Contest

Congratulations to Nicholas Noinaj, a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Molecular Biology, for his winning entry in the newsletter naming and logo contest! The newsletter has undergone many changes in recent months and we are all excited for this new name and logo. Nick is also the newest member of the FAB and plans to contribute to the monthly newsletter as well as design an online web edition. So, keep an eye out for that in upcoming months!



For more information about social events contact Chaya Pooput:

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**We're on the Web!**  
**<http://fellowshipoffice.niddk.nih.gov>**

## Win a \$1000 Travel Award!

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual FARE (Fellows Award for Research Excellence) competition provides recognition for outstanding scientific research performed by intramural postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. FARE 2010 winners will each receive a \$1,000 travel award to use for attending and presenting their work at a scientific meeting. 25% of the fellows who apply will win an award.

FARE applicants must submit an abstract of their current research that will be evaluated anonymously on scientific merit, originality, experimental design and overall quality/presentation. The travel award must be used between Oct. 1, 2009 and Sept. 30, 2010.

The competition is open to all Postdoctoral Fellows with less than 5 years of total postdoctoral experience at the NIH intramural research program. In addition, graduate students performing their doctoral dissertation research at NIH are also eligible to compete.

For more information and to submit your application online please check the website: <http://felcom.od.nih.gov/subCommittee/fare.html>.

The applications are accepted from February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. So don't wait until the last minute and apply now!

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## Calling All Writers!

The newsletter is always looking for new writers or ideas for articles for upcoming months. It could be anything about career development, an interesting seminar or conference you attended, or even a social event for fellows. Writing for the newsletter will help you improve your writing and editing skills, so if you are considering a career in science writing, why not start with an article for the newsletter? Please contact Anna Burkart at [burkarta@mail.nih.gov](mailto:burkarta@mail.nih.gov) or Chaya Pooput at [pooputc@niddk.nih.gov](mailto:pooputc@niddk.nih.gov) if interested.